

### **DECLARATION AND PETITION**

As the below named inventor I hereby declare that:

My residence, post office address and citizenship is as stated below next to my name.

I believe that I am an original, first inventor of the subject matter which is claimed and for which a patent is sought on the invention entitled **METHOD FOR IMPROVING THE RELIABILITY OF BRITTLE MATERIALS THROUGH THE CREATION OF A THRESHOLD STRENGTH**, the specification of which is attached hereto.

I hereby state that I have reviewed and understand the contents of the above-identified specification, including the claims, as amended by any amendment referred to above.

I acknowledge the duty to disclose information which is material to the examination of this application in accordance with Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a).

I hereby claim foreign priority benefits under Title 35, United States Code, Section 119 of any foreign application(s) for patent or inventor's certificate listed below and have also identified below any foreign application for patent or inventor's certificate having a filing date before that of the application on which priority is claimed: None.

I hereby claim the benefit under Title 35, United States Code, Section 120 of any United States application(s), and Section 119(e) of any United States provisional application(s) listed below and, insofar as the subject matter of each of the claims of this application is not disclosed in the prior United States application in the manner provided by the first paragraph of Title 35, United States Code, Section 112, we acknowledge the duty to disclose material information as defined in Title 37, Code of Federal Regulations, Section 1.56(a) which occurred between the filing date of the prior application and the national or PCT international filing date of this application: None.

I hereby declare that all statements made herein of my own knowledge are true and that all statements made on information and belief are believed to be true; and further that these statements were made with the knowledge that willful false statements and the like so made are punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both, under Section 1001 of Title 18 of the United States Code and that such willful false statements may jeopardize the validity of the application or any patent issued thereon.

Wherefore I pray that Letters Patent be granted to me for the invention or discovery described and claimed in the foregoing specification and claims, and I hereby subscribe my name to the foregoing specification and claims, declaration and petition.

**FREDERICK F. LANGE**

Inventor's Signature: Frederick F. Lange

Date: Sept 26, 2000

Residence: 1175 Orchid Drive, Santa Barbara, California 93111

Citizenship: United States of America

Post Office Address: Same as Residence Address

005250-01502950

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**MASA P. RAO**

Inventor's Signature: 

Date: 9/26/2000

Residence: 6504 Madrid Road, Apartment G, Isla Vista, California 93117

Citizenship: United States of America

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005500-01602960

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**ANTONIO JAVIER SANCHEZ HERENCIA**

Inventor's Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: 27<sup>th</sup> of SEPTEMBER of 2000

Residence: C/ Juan de Austria, 13, 3-C, 28010 Madrid, Spain

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